GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:285
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2016
Soil Testing Labs
Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of farmers to soil testing labs in the country;

(b) the strength of sanctioned posts in these soil testing labs;

(c) whether vacant posts are lying in these soil testing labs, if so, the steps taken by the Government to fill the same; and

(d) whether the Government is planning to set up periodical camps in villages for testing the soil and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): There are about 14 crore farm holdings in the country and 1411 soil testing laboratories. Thus the ratio of farm holdings: soil testing labs is 99220:1.

Each lab has an analyzing capacity of 10,000 samples per annum. However, only 126.5 lakh samples are to be analysed annually under Soil Health Card Scheme. The ratio of targeted number of samples to labs comes to 20535 samples per lab.

(b) & (c): Government of India do not maintain information on posts in soil testing labs as the labs are under administrative control of State Governments. However, the States have deployed staff in all labs after introduction of Soil Health Card Scheme and several States are operating labs in double shifts to achieve their targets.

(d): As per guidelines and time to time advice, all State Governments organise sample collection and distribution of soil health cards in campaigns, melas & special camps before every sowing season so as to achieve targets under Soil Health Card scheme.

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